

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

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News

Greg Manos sent me a clipping from the Idaho State Journal in Pocatello telling about the plan to change from using tokens to plastic "MetroCards" for the New York subway. Pictured was "token loyalist" Lynne Lambert, owner of a shop specializing in subway items. She will soon be selling a "Save the Token" t-shirt. I think Greg will order one. Maybe we ought to find a supplier and order some with the obverse of a neat token on the front and the reverse on the back. Wear it while hunting for tokens.

Although I am not much into wooden nickels, they are destined to be even more collectable in the future. At Moscow in July, I had dinner at the Treaty Grounds Brew Pub and noticed a sign advertising bargain prices on their microbrews and "Moose Chips" with every liter. These Moose Chips turned out to be wooden nickels redeemable for "prizes and discounts" or more beer. Later in the summer, at the Western Idaho Fair just down the hill from my place, I found that there were wooden nickels made for the Centennial of the Fair. I asked around trying to find how to get one only to find that there had been 5000 of them ordered from Cobles Advertising Specialties here in Boise and that they were tossed to the crowd as musical groups moved through the fair. Miss Idaho tossed me my first one—Dan Lute later said that he had to swipe his from his kids. At any rate, 50 years from now collectors will wonder how these things were used just as we wonder about tokens.

Hal Dunn recently opined that cardboard good fors were intended to be reused, as opposed to paper coupons, generally sold in booklets. For this reason, they ought to be included with metal/plastic/fiber tokens. I think he makes a very good point and will follow the suggestion. There are probably some pieces in the grey area, however. An example is this piece I located in the archives of the Idaho Historical Library. It is 88.5 by 48mm, off-white cardboard with black printing. The reverse is blank, but has "Souvenir" (sic) handwritten across it. I surmise that the Emmett Grand Army of the Republic post had a fund raising dinner, perhaps as part of the G.A.R. annual encampment, and tickets were sold in advance. Either the person who bought it did not attend or the attendees were allowed to keep their ticket as a souvenir. The organization was an association of Union Civil War veterans, and I know the Emmett Post was active at least from 1908 - 1917. The Idaho Department of the G.A.R. was closed in 1946 by the last of the veterans residing in Idaho, Israel Broadsword.

GOOD FOR
..... ONE MEAL

In Emmett, Idaho.

Redeemable by Fremont Post No. 23, G.A.R.

Follow-up on A. W. Ward of Lewiston

In August I reported the Ward maverick. Since then I found the following article in the November 11, 1906 Lewiston Morning Tribune:

Brunswick Opens Monday - Refreshments and Lunch will be served Monday night.

The Brunswick is the name of the new saloon to be opened up with a big free lunch and free beer next Monday evening in the Grostein building by A. W. Ward. It was at first intimated that the room would be used as a wholesale liquor house but that idea was abandoned, and it will be conducted as a first class saloon. It has been remodeled entirely on the inside, and a handsome red wood bar installed. The beer from the Spokane Brewing and Malting company will be handled and the finest wines and liquors will be sold.

The first advertisement appeared in the November 14 issue.

Then, quoted without comment...

While looking at the records of the Spokane Brewing and Malting Company held by the Washington State University Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections department, I found the following carbon copy of a letter addressed to A. W. Ward in Lewiston. Earlier correspondence indicated that the Brewing Company had financed his liquor license, bar and fixtures.

**THE NEW
BRUNSWICK**
378 Main St.
A. W. WARD, Proprietor
Webster Rye and Old Sara-
to
Finest Wines and Cigars

Spokane, Wash. Feb. 12, 1906.

Mr. A. W. Ward
Lewiston, Idaho

Friend Ward

Our representative has just returned from Lewiston, and we are very glad to learn from him that you are keeping our beer in first class shape, and that business is pretty good with you, considering the time of the year. We are satisfied the way you are handling our interests, and we confidently expect that your orders will increase as the season advances. The only thing that we want to talk about now is the bottled beer business. It seems to us that considerably more could be done in that respect if our goods were pushed a little more. In looking over our books for the year 1904, we find that Mr. Parker [Charles E. Parker, proprietor of the Castle Saloon who evidently was the prime outlet for Spokane beer at the time] sold 62 casks of bottled beer during the month of February in Lewiston. You are aware of the fact that you have hardly ordered any bottled beer from us and in order to increase our bottled beer sales, we would suggest the following: As there are at least two dozen bootleggers on the reservation [the Nez Perce Indian Reservation east of Lewiston] who handle considerable bottled beer, we would advise you to first get their addresses, then to write to each one of them a personal letter, telling

them that you are the agent for the "Gilt Top" bottled beer, and that you can furnish them this famous brand in any quantity at a cheaper price than they have been paying for Eastern brands.

You understand that these bootleggers always buy their supply of bottled beer in five or ten cask lots, coming to Lewiston with a wagon and always paying cash for whatever they get, and we think that with a little rustling you could easily build up a profitable and extensive trade for our bottled beer.

We contemplate putting an ad in the Lewiston paper calling the attention of the trade and the public in general to the fact that you are the agent for "Gilt Top" bottled beer, and that you are prepared to sell them in any quantity. We have written to a few bootleggers whose addresses were obtained through Mr. Sam Galland [he was a relative of the founder of the New York Brewery in Spokane which was absorbed into the Spokane Brewing Co. At this point the copy is illegible but it continues:] call on you whenever they made a trip to Lewiston. No doubt you have noticed how much bottled beer is sold in Lewiston and to parties living in the neighborhood of Lewiston, and as we know in our own experience how easy our "Gilt Top" bottled beer is sold in your section of the country, we want to make every effort to get this trade back again, and we hope you will do your very best to help us in that respect.

We also offer our services to write to every one on the reservation who might be a prospective customer right from this office, if you will only get the addresses of such people. We have made up our minds to get our share of the bottled beer trade in your town and we believe that if you will follow our instructions, we will certainly get it.

Kindly let us hear from you again, and oblige

Yours very truly,

SPOKANE BREWING & MALTING CO.

P.S. Our Mr. Boesmann has delivered the \$100.00 which you gave him, but did not remember exactly how you wanted this amount distributed. Kindly let us know by return mail what disposition you wish to make of this money.

Diana Mines Company, Ltd.

From the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Mining Industry of Idaho for the Year 1915 by Robert N. Bell, State Inspector of Mines:

"One of the most interesting new mining development results of 1915 and one that promises a new and important resource of smelting ore minerals associated with precious metal values, is being brought to light along the northern border of Boise Basin, near Grimes Pass, in Boise County. At this point the Diana Mines Company, a development enterprise backed by eastern capital, has acquired several groups of claims that have been undergoing development since the middle of the summer with a force of approximately a hundred men, whose work has disclosed

high grade galena zinc and copper ore minerals associated in some instances with high silver values and good gold values on half a dozen different veins."

Extracted from the Articles of Incorporation of the Diana Mines Company, Limited, filed in the Idaho Secretary of State office September 9, 1915:

"The object and purposes for which this corporation is formed are to engage in the general business of mining and, in furtherance and not in limitation thereof, to hold, buy, lease, contract and otherwise acquire, and to dispose of by sale, lease, contract or otherwise, mineral lands and properties; to develop and operate the same; to mine, treat, buy and sell ores and minerals; to construct, equip, own and operate mills, smelters, reduction works, warehouses and other buildings, appurtenances and appliances; to construct, equip, own and operate private railways, tramways, pipe-lines, power plants and power lines, ditches, private telegraph and telephone lines; to own and operate stores and to do a general merchandizing and supply business; to own, hold, buy, lease, or otherwise acquire, timber lands and timber, and to construct, equip, own and operate saw-mills and to have, use and utilize, and to sell or otherwise dispose of the product of the same; to have by purchase or otherwise any appliances, improvements or appurtenances necessary or incident to the business of the corporation, and to do any and all matters and things necessary or convenient to the carrying out of the general objects of this corporation."

The Diana Mines Company, Limited was incorporated by the following directors:

Geo. E. De Goila, Buffalo, NY	One Share	\$10.00
Frank T. Day, Boise, ID	199,996 Shares	1,999,960.00
R. J. Watters, Buffalo, NY	One Share	10.00
William Simon, Jr., Buffalo, NY	One Share	10.00
J. A. McCubbin, Boise, ID	One Share	10.00

Directories indicate that the business office was in room 445 of the Yates Building, 103 S. 9th Street in Boise, where Frank T. Day was shown as Manager. This was fitting as he evidently was the New York capitalist who put up the \$2 Million for the corporation.

The Diana Mines Co., Ltd. put together an attractive display of ores for the 1915 Gem State Fair held in Boise on October 7 - 9, 1915. Boise Public Library has two photos of this display in their Idaho collection. The Idaho Daily Statesman reported on the 8th, "News of Gem State Fair: The mining exhibit was small with 15 different counties represented and 32 individual entries. Boise county won the sweepstake, the main collection consisting of 11 different kinds of ore from the Diana Mines company's properties in the Boise Basin. won first premium for a single exhibit for Boise County."

A number of years ago I contacted J. D. Ferguson, a noted collector of Canadian tokens who died several years ago, and bought a "short" set of Diana Mines Co. Ltd. mavericks from him. He had acquired them years before thinking they were likely to be Canadian based on the



use of "Limited" in the name. When I convinced him that many states in the U. S. used the term, he sold them to me. He said that he had done quite a bit of fruitless research trying to locate such a company in Canada. Earlier research showed that the issuer of #DINA-1 was James A. McCubbin who later ran the close-by Garden Valley Mercantile store. It is possible that he ran the Diana Mines Company store at Diana and the tokens were used there. I did not think the operation was large enough to have a store, let alone a "Dept B.", but with \$2 Million in backing, perhaps it did. Also, the 50¢ reverse is identical to that used on the Anson-Hart Grocery token from Payette. Another point in favor of these being from Idaho is that Dan Lute recently got a 5¢ variety with some Idaho tokens. I am still only about 60% convinced that these tokens originated in Idaho. Thoughts, anyone?



Egin, Idaho

Egin, which is a Shoshone Indian word meaning cold, was first settled by Mormon homesteaders in 1879. It was and still is basically an agricultural community. The settlement was first called Garden Grove, but the name was changed to Egin in 1880 when they applied for a post office.

Egin is located in southeastern Idaho about 10 miles northwest of Rexburg and 7 miles west of St. Anthony. Over the years the community has had a number of businesses. In the late 1800's most of the stores were in conjunction with homes. In 1900 Isaac Packer ran a store with a post office about a mile east of the Egin townsite. By 1904 that building had been moved to the Egin townsite and was being run by Andrew Anderson as a general store and post office. He ran the store until around 1916 when he sold the store to John Leedom. Mr. Leedom ran the store as a confectionery and billiard parlor until about 1930.

Another long-time business in Egin was the Egin Merc. It was originally built in 1919 by Joseph White. He ran the store until 1923 then sold it to Gene Zundel. Earl J. Rumsey bought the store around 1928 and ran it until 1946. Since then the Egin Merc has had several different owners and was still in operation until closing in the early 1990's. It has recently opened again.

E. J. Rumsey issued tokens from the Egin Merc Co which are listed as EG-1. Four different denominations are now known as well as some fake 12½¢ tokens.



The 1¢ token is 25mm, Round, Aluminum with 1 known. The 10¢ token is 27mm, 4-lobed Scalloped, Brass with 1 known. The 25¢ token is 27mm, Octagonal, Brass with 4 or 5 known. The 50¢ token is 29mm, 8-lobed Scalloped, Brass with 1 known. The fake 12½¢ pieces are 26mm, Round, Aluminum with at least 4 known.

Andrew Anderson also used tokens and is listed as EG-2. The 5¢ token is 21mm, Round, Brass with 2 known. The 10¢ token is 23mm, Round, Brass (?) and is only known from a drawing in the book *The Story of Egin Bench* by Fern Humphries. The 25¢ token is 25mm, Round, Brass with 1 known.



My thanks to Dean Rasmussen who contributed this piece.

Idahoania

As I was finishing this issue, I got a call from Rob Elliott who is a collector of Idahoania, especially paper items. He had been talking with Mike Fritz about the concept of an Idaho collector group. We may be the nucleus of that type of group, and I am willing to expand the scope of this newsletter, but my research is really limited to subjects related to tokens. So, if you want to see other Idahoania included, write it up and send it in!

Best,

John D. Mutch
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